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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 17 Apr 11 1953

**SUBJECT** East German Steel Production Difficulties

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A steel plant with Siemens-Martin ovens, converters and electric ovens are to be added to the blast furnace works at Fuerstenberg/Oder (EKO) by 1 July 1953. This project is presently being worked on in the ZKB. Construction of the steel plant for further processing of EKO pig iron was halted immediately after the foundations were finished. The reason is the shortage of structural steel, still only available for Russian orders. In East Germany, boiler plate and drawn boiler pipe are almost non-procurable. Attempts have already been made to build steam installations with welded boiler pipe; results thus far, however, have not been positive.
2. The new type of Niederschachtoven<sup>2</sup> at Huettenwerk West (EKW Calbe) still has not produced satisfactory results. Pig iron produced contains so much slag that it can only be used for further processing in ovens which operate on the direct process of iron production (die nach dem Rennverfahren arbeiten). Since the Niederschacht process was used with good result in the laboratory, Calbe attempted to better the process by neutralizing the high sulphur content through a permanent alteration of the furnace vault. So far, the attempt has been a technical failure.

1.  Comment: Zentral. Konstruktions-Buero.

2.	<u>Comment:</u> Low shaft type furnace.
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